

Saturday Gazette.

Bloomfield and Montclair, N. J.

W. F. LYON, Editor and Proprietor.
CHAS. M. DAVIS, Contributing Editor.PUBLICATION OFFICE is next door to
the Post Office in Bloomfield.Terms:—\$2 a year, in advance.
" \$1 for 6 mos.
" 50c for 3 mos.
" \$1 to Clergymen.
" \$1 to School Teachers.ADVERTISEMENTS, first insertion \$1 an inch;
second and third insertion 50 cents an inch;
subsequent insertion 25 cents an inch.Long advertisements by the year at half
these rates.Special rates made with large advertise-
ments.Marriage and Death Notices 25 cents
each.Special Reports made for agreed con-
sideration.OUR JOURNALISM IN BLOOM-
FIELD.GOVERNING PRINCIPLES—APOLOGY—TOWN
AFFAIRS.In starting the GAZETTE in 1872—the
first newspaper ever published here—we
placed before our minds an ideal: local
journal which we believed must succeed.It was to be published, not for surplus-
age, nor, primarily, for profit; nor in
the interest of any party, sect or clique,
but for the propagation of any peculiar dog-
ma. Its aim was to be too noble to be
sinister, too high to be selfish, too patri-
otic to be corruptible, too independent to
be partisan.Our first purpose was, and is, to be true,
our second to be fearless, our third to be
firm, and our fourth to be persistent. Our
life-long motto, *tenacem propositi*, has been
verified in our own overruling deter-
mination to be faithful to the best interests
of our constituency.

APOLOGUE.

While we have constantly labored to
perfect and carry out this ideal in estab-
lishing a local journal for Bloomfield and
Montclair, we have all along taken regret-
ful cognizance of our defects, our short-
comings and our indiscretions without
number. Our zeal in the good work has,
no doubt, often exceeded the limits of
sound judgment. The cause and the work
that seemed to us so desirable, so advan-
tageous, so indispensable, we have pressed
upon the attention of our citizens with an
earnestness which has sometimes laid us
open to the charges of egotism and even
dogmatism. Our strong conviction
of the necessity, the advantage and the
wisdom of certain town improvements
has probably led us to reflect upon some
who thought differently or who opposed the obvious
interests of the town from mistaken views.
But we have always desired to encourage
other citizens in the equal privilege of
holding and expressing freely their indi-
vidual opinions on any and every question.
With these apologies admissions and a
sincere regret if any inadequacy or need-
less word of ours should have at any time
wounded feelings; we intend in fu-
ture to be more assiduous in the exercise
of the spirit and language of amenity and
kindness.

TOWN AFFAIRS.

We now bespeak a careful consideration
of some remarks we have to make in ex-
planation of certain "town affairs" of
the columns before. It is well known
that we have had no public improvement
in Bloomfield except the gas light. But
why has the Town Committee taken such
an attitude toward public improvements?
If we understand rightly, they say by their
President, that they have no power except
what the people specifically give them at
the Annual Town Meeting.If that be so, we may as well give up all
hope of any extended or important town
improvements very soon. For no large
and promiscuous assemblage of citizens
is in a condition to act wisely
and intelligently in a single evening of
hurry and bustle, upon the important
measures which most affect town interests.
But we are inclined to think this position
covers a fallacy. Every public measure
must be thought out, elaborated and clearly
presented in detail before it can awaken an
effective public interest and be ready for
the action of a public assembly. This re-
quires an intelligent, thoughtful, inter-
ested mind or minds, and perhaps pro-
fessional engineering skill. The Town
Committee is the only party the people
can look to to devise and inaugurate these
inexpensive preliminaries.Take, for instance, the matter of DRAIN-
AGE—a subject of the utmost importance
to the best interests of our town, present
and future. What can an open town
meeting do towards it till the inspection
and estimate of a competent engineer shall
determine the necessary locations and costs?
Surely the Town Committee might be pre-
pared with scientific opinions, professional
estimates and their own well matured
counsel to submit to the town meeting.The Road Matter requires similar pre-
liminaries, at least in reference to any great
undertaking, like the construction of a
hard road through the centre of the town
north and south. It is true we have a
law but it is complained that it cannot be
carried out till the people appropriate
money at a town meeting. We do not so
read the law. It does to our mind make
ample and detailed provision, investing
special authority to enable the Town
Council to commence and vigorously pro-
ceed with all desired road improvements.
And they are fully warranted in doing it.Indeed, we don't see how they can ex-
cuse their indifference and neglect in this
matter. They will not even let the people
examine the \$2,500 map which has been
paid for and belongs to the town. They
seem not think it strange that many
doubts are expressed as to the correctness
and usefulness of that map. An article in
another column by a well known citizen,
observant of these things, should convince
the Council that there is real dissatis-
faction prevailing the thoughtful minds of
our community.

LEADERS WANTED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL—THE APPROACHING
ELECTION.Prompted by the above observations it
is suggested to our mind to say that every
community, large or small, i.e., every por-
tion of the "body politic," needs a head,
who shall also be, to a certain extent, a
leader. Without looking at other more
notable cases, generally admitted, and
even established by law, it should be evi-
dent to every thinking man that the inter-
ests of our towns do constantly suggest
the importance and necessity of such a
directing influence.

OBSTACLES IN THE WAY.

Here, in the first place, everything is in
a state of primitive simplicity. Every citi-
zen for himself and for his family, is a
law unto himself. Every question is con-
sidered as it bears upon his personal ne-
cessity, or certain advantage, or imme-
diate convenience. It does not enter into
his heart to make a sacrifice, even a small
one, for the greater benefit of his neighbor,
or the advantage of the town, or to pay a
small sum now, for an improvement that
will benefit a whole community and en-
dure long enough to value of his own prop-
erty to many times his share of the cost of
the improvement. The roads were good
enough for his forefathers, they will do for
him! (or) if anybody wants them let him
make them! "Gas was not thought ne-
cessary forty years ago and I can get along
without it!" let those who want it pay for
it! His ancestors generally lived in a
good old age without considering the san-
itary condition of the ground and the
neighborhood, and he don't see the need
of so much ado and so great expense to
render the locality more salubrious and de-
lightful. In the matter of schools he is a
little more yielding, as he means his son
to have a good education to fit him for the
Legislature or for Congress. But still he
don't see the need of a \$40,000 school
house and \$8,000 a year to carry on the
schools. Didn't he get his learning in a
school house that cost only \$3,000, and
from a teacher that was paid only \$40 a
month?Thus it runs through the whole experi-
ence of the community, who, however
they may mentally approve of the progres-
sive spirit that agitates the world, and
perhaps secretly rejoice at the prospect of
its incubating in their own town, yet
ostensibly oppose any improvements that
will add to their taxes, saying—"if any
body wants them they should pay for
them."Of course there can be little or no pro-
gress in such a community or in such a
town.

ECCLESIASTICAL.

What is wanted is a master spirit whose
pure motives, fair mindedness, good judg-
ment, incorruptible probity and earnest
zeal for the public good will not be ques-
tioned, which can place itself in the van
and develop and concentrate public senti-
ment. We have such men in every town
and from them our Township Committees
should be selected. Then

THE TOWN COUNCIL.

would be the proper and accepted leader
and guide in all progressive measures and
desired improvements. Such a Council
will appreciate the value of the local news-
paper as its most important coadjutor in
harmonizing varying opinions and stimu-
lating popular desires in the right direc-
tion. Public officers can give no better
proof of their weakness and incompetency
than to undertake to taboo or repudiate
the local journal of their town, effectively
laboring with them in subserving the pub-
lic weal and promoting the best interests
of society.Finally, we cannot close these remarks
without expressing our deliberate conviction,
First—That national or party politics
ought to have no influence in our
local town affairs. That whether a citizen
be Democratic or Republican should not
be thought of in selecting candidates for
town offices.Second, That the Township Committee
should not be chosen by sections. Our
towns are not so large, nor their interests
so various as to render this necessary. It
has already borne ill fruit, and if we mis-
take not there are sound reasons why the
practice should be discontinued.Third, That nominations should be
tested by a deliberate estimate of quali-
fication and fitness. A Town Committee-
man, for instance, should not be partisan,
nor sectional, nor susceptible of bias by sect or
class. He should be progressive, of broad
views, of generous nature, of intelligent
mind, of liberal feelings, of many inde-
pendence, of reliable firmness, of discrim-
inating good sense, and of undoubted
probity. The *best men we have in town*
are the men wanted for that position.No matter what streets their resi-
dences stand on. If, indeed, they can all
be found near the Center it might be an
advantage and a convenience. Limited as
our knowledge is we think we could name
a dozen citizens whose way, if elected,
would evince the traits we have enu-
merated and we would not need select all
of the present town committee either.
Just as of the Peace is to be elected and
Township Clerk, Assessor and Collector,
Commissioners of Appeals and Commis-
sioners of Roads and Poor Master. These
are all very important to the interests of
Bloomfield and it is admissible to hope
that men of the right stamp and of un-
doubted qualification will be presented for
our suffrages. We trust the names will be
announced at least a week before election
that voters may deliberately canvass their
merits.

OUR MONTHLIES.

MAGAZINE. *Harper's March* is on
our table replete with Narrative, Descrip-
tion, History, Poetry, Fiction, Editorial
Miscellany and abundant beautiful illus-
trations. \$4 a year.The *Atlantic* for March is here. Origin-
ally it is marked characteristic. It repre-
sents our ablest writers in prose and
poetry. We have history and story, politi-
cal and literature. Hurd & Houghton,
N. Y. \$4 a year.The *Satanstoe* for March. Edited by
Dr. Bell, and published at 234 Broadway,
N. Y. at \$3 a year. We have comments
this invaluable monthly very frequently
for its intrinsic merit is above all praise.most prove a blessing to every household
where it is received. As a source of physi-
cal and hygienic information of physi-
ological culture and health regimen it has
no equal that we have knowledge of.
Every citizen will become more intelligent
and useful by consulting its pages monthly.
The *Aldine* for March is last, but not
least. This is another most capital number.THE BECKER TRIAL.—Our New York
correspondent, Vidi, has given us some of
the latest letters that have been written
on the subject of the great trial. We have
allowed him full liberty hitherto though
from the first it was very manifest that he
was prejudging the case for the plaintiff.
The letter of the present week is in part
to be fair, too partisan to shed light
or inspire confidence for which reason we
decline to print it.We confess we have seen nothing so
strong or so convincing in all the testimo-
ny against the defendant thus far as to
produce conviction in a just mind of the
guilt of Mr. Becker. We may have more
to say on this question hereafter, but for
the present only add that in all our social
intercourse we meet many that express
themselves as we have done above and few
or none that seem at all inclined to believe
that the Plaintiff will make money or
credit by this Tilt-on-Becker.

UNDERGROUND DRAINAGE.

Having devoted considerable space in
our late issues to this most important topic
we hope that our intelligent and thought-
ful readers have not failed to be interested.
The revelations of science in this direction
are truly startling. It is possible that our
towns and cities are enervated and ramified
with the fruitful source of disease and
death! Reliable statistics prove it so.
The articles we have hitherto reprinted
from General Velle's able report give us
his observations and experience and facts
to sustain them, together with his profes-
sional opinions that this fertile cause of so
much sickness and sorrow is easily re-
moved and at less cost than the losses of
absence from business and charges of phy-
sicians (and sometimes of undertakers)
consequent upon our own neglect.We close the subject for the present with
a few additional thoughts, taken from the
same valuable paper, on *house drainage*.
See fourth page.In our State Legislature bills have been
introduced providing that a married woman
who lives apart from her husband
under articles of separation shall have
power to mortgage, convey, lease, or de-
vise any interest, estate, or right, or may
have come to her by gift from her
husband. The act extends the same privi-
lege to husbands, and that married women
and minors may draw their deposits from
savings banks without the consent of hus-
bands or guardians.For the compulsory education of chil-
dren in every child who shall not attend
school during at least twelve weeks in the
year shall pay a penalty to the State of \$3
per week for each week of non-attendance.For a change in the manner of electing
the Town Committee in Bloomfield.
Making it a punishable offense to empty a
deposit in any river, creek, brook, stream,
rivulet or water course, the contents of any
pump, water closet, cess-pool, or the body
of any dead animal.Authorizing any three or more inhabitants
in any part of the State where the roads
become miry, broken or stony, to serve a
notice in writing upon the Overseer of the
Roads, requiring him forthwith to make
and improve the same.

HOME MATTERS.

WEATHER CHRONICLE.

Range of Thermometer at Bloomfield Centre
Feb. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
At 7 A.M. 7 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
At 10 A.M. 16 23 35 38 39 40 41 42
At 4 P.M. 13 27 36 38 39 40 41 42

MONTCLAIR.

SCHOOL CHURCH.—The trustees of the
Montclair Public Schools have just taken
a most important step in advance, as will
be seen by the following circular addressed
to the patrons of the school, that is, virtu-
ally, to all our citizens.The excellent and scholarly principal,
Mr. Spaulding, after getting well acquaint-
ed with the classes and the scholars, saw
his opportunity to give an impetus to the
cause of education that would redound to
the credit of Montclair and the lasting
benefit of the pupils of our already cele-
brated public school. He submitted the
matter to the trustees, who deliberated
over it in successive meetings and in
conference with Mr. Spaulding, and de-
termined unanimously to adopt his recom-
mendations.If there is anything to be deplored in
the rapid advances in our educational sys-
tem it is the tendency of both parents and
scholars to shirk the confinement and la-
bor of arduous study, and content them-
selves with a mere smattering of knowl-
edge and a superficial acquaintance with
the branches they pursue and the authors
they read. Mr. Spaulding finds the classes
in his school apparently some two and a
half years in advance of similar classes in
the high schools of New Haven and Hart-
ford and other New England schools.
This would graduate his highest class at
the average age of 16 or 17 years, when
the similar class in the New Haven and
Hartford high schools would graduate at
about 19 years of age. Of course this
earlier graduation would be at the sacri-
fice of thoroughness, which would be
lamentable, and at the same time would
usher the youth into the world of business
or matriculate him at college at too young
an age, which every wise parent would de-
plore.Our citizens are to be congratulated on
the courage and great interest shown by
the trustees as well as by the principal of
the school, in the plan included and ex-
plained in the circular.

TO THE PATRONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

The Trustees of Montclair School Dis-
trict, No. 8, after mature deliberation, have
unanimously come to the conclusion
that it will be for the best interests of the
schools to defer the graduation of the
Senior Class for one year, and also to allow
the pupils of the lower grades an addi-
tional year for preparation, before entering
upon the high school course. The desirability
to acquire a more thorough knowl-
edge of the studies already passed over, andthe standard of attainment will be ad-
vanced throughout the entire school.
These and other advantages to be secured
by the proposed arrangement seem to the
trustees to be very important, and they are
satisfied, due to the schools and their
patrons to state that the fact which
has mainly influenced us in coming to the
above decision, is the immature age of
the pupils who are considered relatively to
the studies they pursue, rather than any
deficiency of attainment on their part. We
do not think it desirable that pupils
should be encouraged to anticipate the
studies which properly belong to a more
advanced state of mental development than
is common to their years. If this is at-
tempted or allowed they cannot success-
fully grasp the subjects which they thus
prematurely undertake. They necessarily
become superficial in their mental habits,
and fail to acquire that judicious use in
their own powers which comes only from a
thorough comprehension of the studies
common practical branches of education.
It is especially desirable that pupils
should be made to use the study of educa-
tion as a business life should be thoroughly
familiar. But to this end the pupil must
have a certain mental maturity before en-
tering upon them, and sufficient time must
be allowed to master them thoroughly be-
fore commencing the more advanced and
disputatious branches of education provided
for in our course.When, therefore, we state that the pupils
in the different grades of the school are
already upon an average a year and a half
or two years younger than the pupils of
corresponding grades in other public
schools of a similar order, we doubt not
that the friends of the school will concur
with us in the course indicated in the fol-
lowing resolutions, which were unanimously
adopted by the trustees at a meeting held
Feb. 8th:Resolved, That we deem it inexpedient to
graduate a class from, or admit a class to
the High School during the present year
(the year 1873).Resolved, That promotions in the Gram-
mar and Primary schools shall be only
from the first divisions of each class to the
next higher grade.Resolved, That this action be communi-
cated to the patrons of the school.In calling attention to the above resolu-
tions, and the reasons for their adoption,
the trustees wish to express their gratifica-
tion in the excellence of the schools, and
their belief that the principal and his as-
sistants are successfully striving to render
them more and more worthy the confidence
of the friends of education.To this end we respectfully solicit your
cooperation.
THOMAS PORTER,
Q. H. FRANKS,
W. JACOBUS,
PHILIP DORRANCE,
J. H. H. LOVE,
Trustees.
Montclair, Feb. 15, 1873.DEPARTED.—Our sleighing has lasted
from Dec. 21, to Feb. 22, being nine weeks.
We welcomed its coming, enjoyed its con-
tinuance and, having had an abundance
we now rejoice at its departure.OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL includes on its
Register the names of four hundred pupils.
The classes are all in a prosperous state
of advancement. This is the fountain in
the centre of our beautiful village whence
flow perennial streams for the blessing
of our nation and of mankind.THE MONTCLAIR LIBRARY is constantly
adding to its shelves all new and desirable
works. Bound volumes of the GAZETTE
from its commencement in 1872 can be
consulted there.

BLOOMFIELD.

STOCKS OF SPRING.—Flocks of crows have
been prospecting in this neighborhood
during the past week and on Tuesday
were quite exhibited by notes of trial
from some smaller birds of song.EXHIBITION.—The Methodist Church
held a Sunday School exhibition on Tues-
day and Wednesday evenings. An inter-
esting and elaborate programme gratified
the patronizing audiences.

THE NEW MAP OF BLOOMFIELD.

Amongst other things relating to town-
ship affairs, recently much discussed, but
not yet well understood, is the township
map. There seems to be as much diversity
of opinion in relation to it as there is in re-
lation to what would constitute a wise
general town policy, some alleging that
the map is "good for nothing," others, and
amongst these, if he is correctly reported,
the chairman of the township committee,
(who should know) holding that it was
"made in strict accordance with law,"
meaning the street improvement act. If
both of these assertions or opinions are cor-
rect, it speaks badly for the act. Let us
see how this is. The first section of that
act is the one which gives authority for the
survey and map, and reads as follows:—
"Be it enacted by the Senate and General
Assembly of the State of New Jersey, That
it shall be the duty of the township Com-
mittee of the township of Bloomfield, and
they are hereby authorized and em-
powered to make a map to be made by
competent parties, a correct survey and
map of the township, showing the existing
streets, roads, highways, alleys, railroads,
lakes, ponds, streams and water-courses
within said township." Now, a map made
to meet the requirements of this section
would be one of great utility and not a
useless one. To make such a map it would
be necessary to consult the county records,
procure the description of the several roads
as laid by the surveyor of highways or
otherwise; to trace their center lines on
the ground and note the bearings and dis-
tances thereof on the map. This having
been done, and the town Committee de-
termined to discharge the discretionary power
given them (in the same act) to cause the
removal of fences which encroached upon
the streets, the true lines could be staked
out on the ground. If a narrow street
were ordered widened or a crooked one
made less so, the quantity of land taken
for such improvement from the several
owners, could easily be determined, and
payment thereof be made accordingly.
And, in cases where no more land was
taken than had been improperly enclosed
by the land owner at some previous date
(that would appear). The length of new
streets having their termini in old ones, or
crossing them, (and the second section of
the act contemplates many of those) could
be noted on such a map. In short, a map
made as above indicated, and in every
other respect accurately, would be neither
less nor more than what is contemplated
in the section quoted. We have now
gained one step in the enquiry: we see that
either the assertion that the map is worth-less is incorrect, or, that the statement as-
signed to the chairman of the township Com-
mittee, that it was "made in strict accord-
ance with the law," is a lie. Which? The
answer to this question will enable us to
judge. Does the township map give the
bearings and distances of the streets, and
is it in all respects correct? If so, the
assertion that it is "good for nothing," is
a lie. If not, and it is true, as is the general
impression, that the records were not re-
spected, and that, as bearings and dis-
tances are given, that it is merely a draw-
ing showing the streets as *fenced*, then it is
a "good for nothing." And so far from be-
ing "made in strict accordance with law,"
there was no warrant of law for drawing it
at all. The writer having just read to a
friend what is above written, is in doubt
by him that a forcible reason for the be-
lief that the map was not respected to
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mittee, that it was "made in strict accord-
ance with the law," is a lie. Which? The
answer to this question will enable us to
judge. Does the township map give the
bearings and distances of the streets, and
is it in all respects correct? If so, the
assertion that it is "good for nothing," is
a lie. If not, and it is true, as is the general
impression, that the records were not re-
spected, and that, as bearings and dis-
tances are given, that it is merely a draw-
ing showing the streets as *fenced*, then it is
a "good for nothing." And so far from be-
ing "made in strict accordance with law,"
there was no warrant of law for drawing it
at all. The writer having just read to a
friend what is above written, is in doubt
by him that a forcible reason for the be-
lief that the map was not respected to
become superficial in their mental habits,
and fail to acquire that judicious use in
their own powers which comes only from a
thorough comprehension of the studies
common practical branches of education.
It is especially desirable that pupils
should be made to use the study of educa-
tion as a business life should be thoroughly
familiar. But to this end the pupil must
have a certain mental maturity before en-
tering upon them, and sufficient time must
be allowed to master them thoroughly be-
fore commencing the more advanced and
disputatious branches of education provided
for in our course.When, therefore, we state that the pupils
in the different grades of the school are
already upon an average a year and a half
or two years younger than the pupils of
corresponding grades in other public
schools of a similar order, we doubt not
that the friends of the school will concur
with us in the course indicated in the fol-
lowing resolutions, which were unanimously
adopted by the trustees at a meeting held
Feb. 8th:Resolved, That we deem it inexpedient to
graduate a class from, or admit a class to
the High School during the present year
(the year 1873).Resolved, That promotions in the Gram-
mar and Primary schools shall be only
from the first divisions of each class to the
next higher grade.Resolved, That this action be communi-
cated to the patrons of the school.In calling attention to the above resolu-
tions, and the reasons for their adoption,
the trustees wish to express their gratifica-
tion in the excellence of the schools, and
their belief that the principal and his as-
istants are successfully striving to render
them more and more worthy the confidence
of the friends of education.To this end we respectfully solicit your
cooperation.
THOMAS PORTER,
Q. H. FRANKS,
W. JACOBUS,
PHILIP DORRANCE,
J. H. H. LOVE,
Trustees.
Montclair, Feb. 15, 1873.DEPARTED.—Our sleighing has lasted
from Dec. 21, to Feb. 22, being nine weeks.
We welcomed its coming, enjoyed its con-
tinuance and, having had an abundance
we now rejoice at its departure.OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL includes on its
Register the names of four hundred pupils.
The classes are all in a prosperous state
of advancement. This is the fountain in
the centre of our beautiful village whence
flow perennial streams for the blessing
of our nation and of mankind.

BLOOMFIELD.

STOCKS OF SPRING.—Flocks of crows have
been prospecting in this neighborhood
during the past week and on Tuesday
were quite exhibited by notes of trial
from some smaller birds of song.

(Special Correspondence of the GAZETTE.)

THE GREAT TRIAL.

VII.

THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PLYMOUTH
BETHLEH ON THE STAND—HOW MR.